

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 1443

LIMDIS

PLEASE PASS USIA

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: BTRA, GR, US (LAMBRAKIS, CHRISTOS)  
SUBJECT: GREECE'S TOP NEWSPAPER PUBLISHER TO MAKE FIRST VISIT  
TO U.S. MARCH 22 - 27

1. CHRISTOS LAMBRAKIS PRESIDES OVER GREECE'S LARGEST  
PRESS EMPIRE AND AT THE AGE OF 43 SITS ASTRIDE ONE OF THE  
MAJOR SEATS OF POWER IN GREECE. HE HAS NEVER BEEN TO THE  
UNITED STATES AND HAD VIRTUALLY NO CONTACT WITH  
AMERICAN OFFICIALS DURING THE JUNTA YEARS. SINCE MY OWN  
ARRIVAL HERE I HAVE MADE A MAJOR EFFORT TO CULTIVATE HIM  
AND HAVE HAD A NUMBER OF PRIVATE SESSIONS WITH HIM.  
I HAVE REGULARLY URGED HIM TO MAKE A VISIT TO THE  
UNITED STATES AND HE HAS JUST INFORMED ME THAT HE WILL BE  
GOING TO NEW YORK ON BUSINESS MARCH 22-27 AND WOULD BE  
RECEPTIVE TO A VISIT TO WASHINGTON FOR A DAY OR SO IF  
SUITABLE MEETINGS COULD BE ARRANGED THERE. ALTHOUGH HE  
DECLINED TO MAKE ANY SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS FOR MEETINGS  
IN WASHINGTON, PREFERRING TO LEAVE THAT UP TO ME,  
I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT HE WOULD HOPE TO MEET  
SECRETARY VANCE, IF ONLY BRIEFLY, AND PERHAPS SOME  
APPROPRIATE PERSON IN THE WHITE HOUSE WHO IS CLOSE TO  
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THE PRESIDENT. HE SAID HE WOULD ALSO WELCOME ANY  
OPPORTUNITY TO MEET FORMER SECRETARY KISSINGER IF HE  
WERE IN WASHINGTON AT THE TIME.

2. LAMBRAKIS WIELDS CONSIDERABLE INFLUENCE OVER PUBLIC  
OPINION IN GREECE. HIS SENSATIONALIST AFTERNOON  
NEWSPAPER TA NEA TOPS ALL GREEK PAPERS IN SALES AND

COMBINES WITH HIS RELATIVELY CEREBRAL AND WIDE- RANGING TO VIMA, THE INTELLECTUAL FLAGSHIP OF HIS GROUP AND SIXTH IN CIRCULATION IN GREECE AMONG ALL DAILY NEWS- PAPERS, TO GIVE HIM THE COMMANDING POSITION IN THE CENTER AND CENTER-LEFT SWATH OF THE POLITICAL SPECTRUM. HE ALSO PUBLISHES THREE WEEKLY MAGAZINES. HIS PUBLISHING EMPIRE HAS TRADITIONALLY BEEN THE DRIVING FORCE BEHIND THE CENTER UNION POLITICAL PARTY, NOW THE PRINCIPAL OPPOSITION GROUPING IN GREECE TO THE GOVERN- MENT OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. CARAMANLIS HIMSELF GOES WAY OUT OF HIS WAY TO TRY AND INFLUENCE AND CULTIVATE LAMBRAKIS AS WELL (INDEED, I AM HAVING DINNER WITH THE TWO OF THEM TOMORROW NIGHT AT LAMBRAKIS' FLAT).

3. WHAT LAMBRAKIS REALLY NEEDS, AS FAR AS THE U.S. IS CONCERNED, IS A PROLONGED AND WIDE-RANGING EXPOSURE TO OUR COUNTRY. HE IS FULL OF THE MOST AWFUL MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND BIASES, AND MANY OF THESE COULD BE CORRECTED BY JUST SPENDING TIME IN THE U.S. HOWEVER, THAT IS NOT POSSIBLE NOW AND I RECOMMEND WE MAKE A MAXIMUM EFFORT TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE SHORT TIME HE WILL BE IN NEW YORK AND HIS WILLINGNESS TO MAKE A SIDE TRIP TO WASHINGTON. IF I AM NOT MISTAKEN, HIS VISIT IS KEYED TO FURTHERING HIS PUBLISHING AND BUSINESS RELATIONSHIPS WITH "NEWSWEEK" MAGAZINE AND THE WASHINGTON POST. WHEN I OFFERED TO TRY AND BE HELPFUL TO HIM FOR POSSIBLE MEETINGS IN THE PUBLISHING FIELD IN THE U.S. HE DEMURRED, INDICATING THAT OUR FACILITATIVE ASSISTANCE COULD BEST BE CONFINED TO ARRANGING MEETINGS WITH APPROPRIATE

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USG OFFICIALS, IF THEY WERE WILLING TO RECEIVE HIM.

4. I REQUEST THAT THE DEPARTMENT EXPLORE WHAT KIND OF MEETINGS OR OTHER ARRANGEMENTS COULD BE MADE FOR U.S. OFFICIALS TO SEE LAMBRAKIS IN EITHER WASHINGTON OR NEW YORK IN THE MARCH 22-27 PERIOD AND LET ME KNOW SO THAT I CAN THEN DISCUSS THE MATTER FURTHER WITH HIM HERE.

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## Message Attributes

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